

Minutes of the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture
January 8, 2015

Attending: Barbara Costa (chaired), Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Adria Arch, Jonathan Hyde, Leland Stein, Aimee Taberner (took minutes)

Guest: Ann Bunder, Consultant, Carlisle and Company

Absent: Carla Dorato

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by B Costa.

1. Meeting with Ann Budner, non-profit consultant, Carlisle and Company located in Concord, MA. Discussion of her experience working on Natick Center Cultural District, and their ongoing two-phased strategic planning process, which focused on culture, community, economic development and governance. Discussion of how Arlington may learn from Natick's experiences in proceeding with cultural planning and cultural district designation processes.
2. Minutes of December 4, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved as amended.
3. Elect Officers for 2015
 - Aimee Taberner and Jonathan Hyde voted unanimously as Co-recording secretaries.
 - Barbara Costa and Stephanie Marlin-Curiel voted unanimously as Co-chairs.
 - Discussion of involving others in ACAC activities. Bylaws indicate that the commission may appoint from time to time a Board of Advisors and ad hoc committees to serve at the direction of the Commission's members.
Involving advisors and ad hoc committee members may help with cultural districting and cultural planning processes, and enable board member transition in future years.
4. Cultural District designation process planning update.
Updated on recent meetings with representatives of the Arlington Tourism and Economic Development (A-Ted) committee regarding pursuing possible state designation of Arlington Center Cultural District. A meeting for February 4th had been planned to bring together stakeholders to discuss pursuing designation, but following discussion it was decided to convene a meeting with representatives of cultural organizations in the Center, East Arlington, and Arlington Heights. Important to include businesses as well. The purpose of the meeting would be to ensure that pursuit of the Arlington Center Cultural district is perceived as beneficial to all of Arlington, not only to those in the center. Massachusetts Cultural Districts are defined as a specific geographical area in a city or town that has a concentration of cultural facilities, activities, and assets. It is a walkable, compact area that is easily identifiable to visitors and residents and serves as a center of cultural, artistic and economic activity. Arlington may wish to self-designate and market itself as a Cultural Corridor rather than limit to one, or potentially two, cultural districts. If Arlington Center Cultural Districting is pursued, the governance and administration of the district's initiatives and programs should be determined in advance. This administration may require financial support, which is not currently available. These issues will be discussed at a meeting in March or early April.
5. ACAC Budget request
Barbara Costa discussed the budget request submitted to Adam Chapdelaine to support ACAC outreach and preliminary assessment for cultural planning. Cultural plan for town may need to

be pursued over several years. The initial stage of 2015 would be for a consultant to start the process, gather existing information, and facilitate initial meeting(s). Barbara to follow up with Adam to discuss ACAC budget.

Adria Arch updated on Adam's request to have APA submit a budget. This budget request is separate and distinct from ACAC's as it is to enable public art installations on Mass Ave Corridor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.